

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00704 260953Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /064 W

-----260958Z 049061 /20

O R 260904Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1744

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, KS, KN, US

KOREAN PRESS REACTION TO P'YONGYANG PROPOSAL FOR SOUTH-NORTH
TALKS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SEOUL 278 (DTG 120820Z JAN 77)

SUMMARY: AFTER TAKING BRIEFLY FAVORABLE LINE IN THE MORNING,
FOLLOWING NEGATIVE EXPRESSION OF ROKG OFFICIAL ON HAPTONG WIRE,
KOREAN PRESS REACTION TO NORTH'S PROPOSAL FOR "POLITICAL NEGOTIA-
TIONS" ALSO TURNED SHARPLY NEGATIVE IN AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 26.
END SUMMARY.

1. ON JANUARY 26, KOREAN VERNACULAR PRESS RESPONDED TO
STATEMENTS BROADCAST BY P'YONGYANG ON JANUARY 25 PROPOSING
"POLITICAL CONFERENCE" TO DISCUSS "INDEPENDENT, PEACEFUL
UNIFICATION" AND "EASING OF TENSIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH
AND ELIMINATION OF DANGER OF NUCLEAR WAR." HAPTONG
STORY DATELINED TOKYO WAS GIVEN HEADLINE COVERAGE IN
MORNING CHOSON ILBO AND MINOR FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN
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HAN'GUK ILBO. ARTICLE, NOTING THAT PROPOSAL ACCEPTS
PRESIDENT PAK'S PROPOSAL OF JANUARY 12 (REFTEL) "WITH
ONLY A CHANGE OF NAME," LABELED PROPOSAL "NOTABLE" AND
"A CHANGE IN THEIR FORMER POSITION," HOWEVER, FRONT-PAGE
COMMENTARY IN CHOSON ILBO BY YI TO-HYONG, STATING THAT
PROPOSAL TRIES TO "DESTROY KOREA'S PRESENT SYSTEM" AND
"GENERATE A DIVISIVE ATMOSPHERE" IN IT, CONCLUDED THAT

SUGGESTION TO MEET AT P'ANMUNJOM OR SOME OTHER
MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PLACE REPRESENTS "SOME PROGRESS," BUT
"ULTIMATELY, WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE TRUE INTENTIONS OF THIS
PROPOSAL."

2. FOLLOWING ISSUANCE LATER IN DAY OF HAPTONG REPORT
CARRYING NEGATIVE REMARKS FROM UNNAMED ROKG OFFICIAL,
AFTERNOON PAPERS, THOUGH GIVING STORY UNIFORM FRONT-PAGE
COVERAGE, ARE MUCH MORE NEGATIVE IN THEIR RESPONSE. THEY
CALLED PROPOSAL AN "INDIRECT REJECTION" OF PRESIDENT PAK'S
SUGGESTIONS, AND "A REPETITION OF THEIR (NK) CONVENTIONAL
POSITION." TOKYO CORRESPONDENT'S ARTICLE IN TONGA ILBO
INCLUDES FOR FIRST TIME REFERENCE TO NORTH'S REQUEST
FOR "UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS TOGETHER
WITH POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS. OTHER PAPERS QUOTE
UNNAMED NORTH KOREAN EXPERTS": "A REPETITION OF NORMAL
POLITICAL PROPAGANDA" (CHUNGANG ILBO). CHUNGANG ILBO,
ONLY PAPER TO CARRY EDITORIAL SO FAR, LABELED PROPOSAL
"ANOTHER START AT THEIR DISGUISED PEACE CAMPAIGN"
AND "A TRANSPARENT ATTEMPT TO SHAKE THE PRESENT SYSTEM
BY SPLITTING KOREA INTERNALLY."

3. RADIO NEWSCASTS DURING DAY HAVE BEEN NEGATIVE FROM THE
START, BEGINNING ITEMS WITH NOTICE THAT NORTH HAS
"REJECTED" PAK'S PROPOSAL.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL UNIFICATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL00704
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770028-0112
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770116/aaaaanud.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 278
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3495209
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> mcm 20041112
Subject: TERRITORIAL UNIFICATION
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, KS, KN, US, (PYONGYANG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c5dfdad0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009